DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
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> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yang (US 2004/0259595).

Regarding claim 1, Yang teaches a method of switching a speech channel in a mobile telephone system utilizing a signaling channel and a speech channel, the mobile telephone system comprising an interface between a Base Station System (BSS) communicating with a Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) via a transmission connection (Figure 1) characterized in that the speech channels of an originating subscriber and a dialed-up subscriber, both of whom are located on the BSS side of the transmission connection, are connected in a local switcher (Paragraph [0042]) while the routing of the signaling channel via the Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) is retained (Paragraph [0037]; Figure 3).

Regarding claim 2 yang teaches a method in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in that a signaling channel corresponding to a set of speech channels is monitored by means of an analyzer (“judging whether the calling MS and the called MS

belong to the same BSC", Figure 3), information regarding the dialed up subscriber being analyzed in order then to connect the calls in the local switcher if both subscribers are on the same side of the transmission connection (Paragraph [0036]; Figure 3).

Regarding claim 3, Yang teaches a method in accordance with Claims 1 characterized in that a number of transmission links from the SS are concentrated down to a smaller number of transmission links transmitted via the transmission connection, whereupon the smaller number of transmission links is expanded to the original number of transmission links before they are transmitted to the MSC (paragraphs [0040-0041; 0047], Note: the number of voice paths can be reduced (abstract), and no changes in number of signaling links (figure 3)).

Regarding claim 4, Yang teaches a method in accordance with Claim 3, characterized in that the analyzer monitors the capacity utilization in the transmission connection and prevents the MSC from attempting to set up further calls if the capacity is fully utilized (Paragraph [0040]).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MUTHUSWAMY G. MANOHARAN whose telephone number is (571)272-5515. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM-2:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eng George can be reached on 571-272-7495. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/George Eng/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617